

# WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATS

August 4, 1998

MUR 4785

General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20463

AUG 10 4 42 PM '98

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Washington State Democratic Part, I request that you investigate United States Congressional candidate, Ron Taber, of the 9<sup>th</sup> District in Washington State for failure to file with the Federal Elections Commission.

It has come to my attention that Mr. Taber announced his candidacy and began his campaign spending without filing a report with the FEC. It is my understanding that a candidate is not required to file with the FEC unless he has raised or spent more than \$5,000. The following evidence suggests Mr. Taber has exceeded the \$5,000 limit:

- Distribution of printed materials including a tri-fold color brochure, a full-color business card and a flyer noting it was indeed paid for by Ron Taber for Congress (attachment a)
- Involvement in the Renton Riverdays Parade with a participation fee of \$50. His participation included a pick-up truck covered with yard signs
- Installation of email and website with the following addresses: [taberhq.tcmnet.com](mailto:taberhq.tcmnet.com) and <http://tcmnet.com/~taberhq/>
- Campaign appearances have been made across the state yet no travel expenses have been indicated
- Failed to report a minimum of \$1,367 in candidate filing fees required by the Washington State Secretary of State
- Reference by a reporter to a staff person, indication payroll expenses (attachment b)
- Reference to a campaign headquarters, the value of which should be disclosed even if location is personal home (attachment c)

With this evidence, it seems probable that at least \$5,000 has been raised and/of spent by the Ron Taber for Congress campaign. I am confident that, after further investigation, you will discover a violation of the Federal Elections Commission laws has occurred. I

# WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATS

would appreciate prompt attention to this matter as it is critical to the political process that voters know where a candidate raises and spends his or her money. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

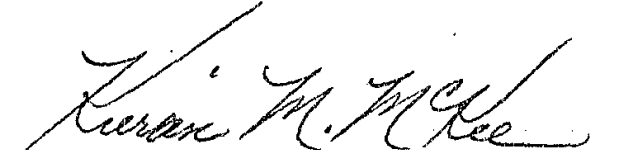
Sincerely,



Paul Berendt  
Chairman, WSDCC

Enclosure

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 1998,  
at Seattle, Washington



NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of  
Washington, County of King, residing  
at Seattle. My commission expires 2/1/99

# Ron Taber...

## ✓ Mature and Tested:

Infantry Officer  
Teacher  
State Official working with youth  
Successful small businessman

## ✓ Concerned:

Urban League officer  
Property owners assoc. president  
Pro-Life  
Pro second amendment  
Environmentalist

## ✓ Independent:

Able to change  
Not tied to special interests  
Endorsed by members of three  
political parties

Ron Taber will be a powerful voice in Congress working for change. The incumbent freshman democrat is not part of the governing majority. If the 9th Congressional District wants real representation in Congress, it must elect Ron Taber. Ron Taber will defend our faith, families, flag, and freedom by putting America first.

## Just For Laughs!

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Sunday, April 12, 1998

Peter Callaghan, Political Editor

**Q:** "I see Ron Taber is back, this time running for the 9th Congressional District. Wasn't he mentioned as a candidate for the 3rd District?"

**A:** "Yes, Taber was considering a Campaign for the seat being given up by U.S. Rep. Linda Smith."

**Q:** "Can he do that? I thought a candidate had to live in the district."

**A:** "He'll move from the 3rd to the 9th, but nothing in state or federal law requires a congressional candidate to live in the district."

"They must only be a resident of the state, which blocks Taber from running against U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer in California."

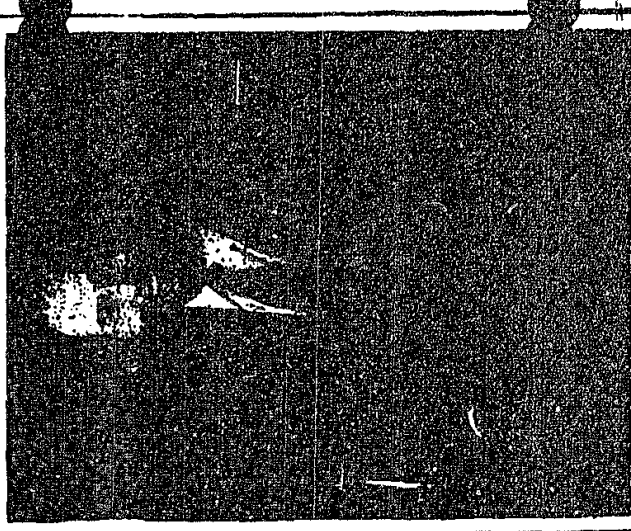
Paid for by Ron Taber for Congress  
7333 22nd Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98516 • 1-800-494-8774  
E-mail: taber@barnes.com • Home Page: <http://ron.us.net/~taber/>

# Ron Taber

for Congress

★★★

Mature & Tested  
Independent ★ Concerned



# CHECK THE DIFFERENCES:

Ron Taber

A. Smith

**Supports the B-2 Bomber**  
Means quality jobs and strong national defense

**Supports free and fair trade**  
Our state is key to trade with other nations

**Pro-Life**  
Ron Taber will protect life

**Wants to win the war on drugs**  
"Weird world have inhaled"  
Bill Clinton on MTV

**Supports parental rights**  
Ron/Taber stands for school choice

**Will strengthen Social Security**  
Protect your father and mother

**Will vote to cut taxes**  
Families can best decide how to spend their money

**Has a transportation plan for I-5**  
Cut the heavy burden of commuter roads

Voted against B-2

Voted against fast track

Voted for partial birth abortion

Soft on drugs

Voted against school choice

No plan to save Social Security

"Democrats are not for taxcuts."

"FAA doesn't listen to me."

## Ron Taber's "Contract with America"

**A Drug Free Safe America for Our Children**  
Get serious about the drugs and the crime it creates. Drugs are dangerous, drugs should not be legalized. A woman living in a home with hard drugs is 27 times more likely to be killed than living in a drug free home.

**A World Class System of Education**  
Public schools fail many parents. The Washington, D.C. system is a national disgrace, spending over \$10,000 per child with a 60% dropout rate. School choice creates competition - competition creates excellence. English is our commercial language. Children who can't read, speak and write the common language need intensive English-only study.

**Social Security Protection**  
Honor your mother and father. Our retirement money is stolen to cover current spending. Our money should be invested in secure deposits that earn compound interest. With invested individualized retirement accounts, mother and father are safe and the next generation will receive even better benefits.

**Cut the Family Tax Burden**  
Flat tax, sales tax - it doesn't matter which if taxes continue to take half the family income. We must move to a smaller, limited government that takes half the current bite. Taxes for all layers of government should not exceed 25% of family income.

**Right to Life**  
Legal abortion now includes infanticide and is a path to mercy killing. The Creator is the giver of life and author of rights. Obeying God's law we honor human life from conception to natural death.

**National Defense**  
We have hurt our security by export of military technology and deep cuts in defense. Our military needs the means to fight, including the B-2 bomber and a national missile defense. The missile defense of Western Washington is essential and possible.

**Free Trade**  
America is stronger when it competes on a level field. It is not a level field when third world nations steal our family wage jobs with cheap labor. Free trade must be fair trade. If our competitors can build better and cheaper, they should open a plant in Western Washington.

**R**epublicans all over America question why Bill Clinton, the poster boy for character flaws, gets away with it. They cite a laundry list of things he's done, most of them factual, and marvel at the lack of outrage.

Yet when it comes to a local candidate whose history makes his character an issue, many Republican officials are struggling off a very public record of questionable judgment. That candidate is Ron Taber, who is running for the Republican nomination in the Ninth Congressional District. The answer to the ignorance is bliss position on the part of GOP leaders appears simple: money. Taber has significant personal wealth, and his personal expenditures in the race against incumbent

Some have suggested Taber is pulling a fast one by running in the Ninth when his long term residence has been the Third. That's unfair. Taber literally lives on the line between the two districts. As former Thurston County Republican Party Treasurer Ron Sharp says, "Taber lives in the Third, but his cows live in the Ninth." His cattle ranch lies in both districts. Taber has said he will obtain a residence in the Ninth.

Democrat Mike Kreidler moved from the Third to the Ninth when he ran for the seat and won it in 1992, so the Democrats can hardly raise the residence issue.

The questions surrounding Taber need not focus on ideology. The Ninth elected another Christian conservative, Randy Tate, to Congress in 1994 and turned him out of office by a narrow margin in 1996.

Tate was succeeded by Democrat Adam

Smith, who must defend the seat against the Republican who wins the September primary.

## Sitting This One Out

Some of the more attractive candidates the Republicans might have offered to voters in the Ninth Congressional District decided to sit out the race.

Bob Seiple, who recently left Federal Way based World Vision after an extremely successful tenure as President, was the Republican's dream candidate. At World Vision, he had used enterprise solutions as a means of rebuilding communities broken by poverty, famine and disease. A deeply committed Christian with an outstanding personal reputation, excellent academic credentials and a grasp of global issues, he seemed an ideal choice for the party. A confidante of Seiple's told *The Reporter* that Seiple felt Congress would be too limiting and that he was seeking a job with a global reach. He got it last week when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright created a special Deputy Secretary of State role which was tightly tailored to Seiple's skills.

Former Federal Way Mayor Skip Priest, who had served as a senior aide to Republican legislators in Washington, D.C. early in his career, decided to run for the Legislature instead. Priest and his wife, Trish, known for school age children and their needs weighed against the race. The same was true for another prospect, Federal Way City Councilman Phil Watkins and his wife, Nan.

## The Role Of Money

"So long as there are individuals who espouse extreme positions and have funds available to support them, they will drive highly qualified individuals off the stage. Long term, it will lessen the ability of citizens to derive benefits from highly skilled people," according to Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive and former Chairman of Mainstream Republicans of Washington.

Sutherland joins national observers in his concern about the trend toward well financed individuals with no government experience leaping into high level races without paying dues in the low to mid-level offices which serve as a training ground for public office. Ross Perot and Steve Forbes, men of great wealth, both view the Presidency as an entry level position. Perot's message of limited government drew voters from Republican nominees in 1992 and 1996, while Forbes' attack ads against Republican front runner Bob Dole wounded him early in the 1996 campaign.

California's recent experience may be instructive. In the 1990 June primary, two wealthy amateurs

sought the Democratic nomination for Governor. Democrats ignored both of them and chose Lt. Governor Grey Davis as their nominee.

No strong, experienced contender has emerged as an alternative to Taber in the Republican race in the Ninth Congressional District.

Democrat Adam Smith will tie up labor union funds, Democratic Party funds, and volunteer resources which could otherwise be diverted to other contests in King, Pierce and Thurston County. With a narrow 12 vote majority in the United States House of Representatives, the Republicans need every tactical advantage they can muster. And so some Republican leaders look the other way.

Taber has a questionable history which includes repeated fines and lawsuits involving his operation of federally subsidized apartments, being thrown out of the American Angus Association and barred from many county fairs for painting cattle black to pass them off as purebred Angus, and loose lipped remarks that many characterize as race-baiting.

Ironically, Republicans may be counting on Taber's money in vain. Some close observers of Taber's career suspect that while

he does have wealth, he may be "real estate poor." His resources are clearly locked up in land, buildings, and maintenance. The real question is, does he have the liquid capital to invest in the race in the manner the party expects? While Taber poured significant personal funds into his own candidacy for Superintendent of Public Instruction and Initiative 173, his school choice proposal, his actual contributions were not as large as he said they would be.

## The Ninth Congressional District

The Ninth Congressional District is a "swing district," one which can be won by either party. The party that holds the seat must expect to defend it. It covers parts of Pierce, King, and Thurston County.

## The Eikenberry Experience

Ken Eikenberry, a former FBI agent, legislator and three term Attorney General of Washington, is regarded as a straight arrow. He took the helm of the post-Watergate State Republican Party in 1976. Along with Executive Director, Tom Gildemeister, he rebuilt the party. The Republicans made gains in 1978 legislative races and won huge victories statewide in the Reagan landslide of 1980. Eikenberry, by then the Republican nominee for Attorney General, won the office in 1980, and was twice reelected. While not gifted in the courtroom as his predecessor, Slade Gorton, the AG's office was run quietly and well during his three terms.

After an unsuccessful run for governor in 1992, Eikenberry again sought to chair the Republican Party, and won the post in January of 1993. When he ran for reelection, Taber challenged him.

Taber ran against Eikenberry for state Chairman in late 1994 for the January 1995 election. In a contest that was noticeably bitter.

glibly rumors about Eikenberry were spread. There was a backlash against Taber as a result, especially in Thurston County, where both men make their homes and are well known to the community. Taber eventually dropped out of the race.

Of the tone of the race, Eikenberry said: "In Ron Taber's campaign against me for state

Chairman, I was treated in ways that had never happened to me at the hands of a Democratic opponent."

## Landlord

Though Taber paints himself as an anti-government rebel, Ron Taber's personal fortune derives from the use of a government subsidy to finance the acquisition of apartment complexes in many parts of Washington state.

Taber used \$4 million in low cost, 50-year loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development program to build apartments in Thurston, Mason, Grant and Douglas counties. During Taber's race for Superintendent of Public Instruction, *The Seattle Times*, in an extensive investigation of Taber's activities as a landlord, published a copyrighted article which documented problems in Taber-owned buildings. Numerous landlord-tenant disputes came to light, including failure to control insects, attend to routine building maintenance, and provide good building management. At one point the USDA's Rural Economic Development office gave Taber's operations an unsatisfactory rating, the lowest rating possible. Taber's supporters told *The Reporter* that despite past problems, Taber had recently been extended in the program for an additional 20 years. We requested but have not received the written confirmation of this information from Taber, although we did receive an unsolicited copy of a positive energy audit from Taber's lawyer, Steve Hosch.

Taber was the object of a class action lawsuit in 1985 which charged him with failing to correct electrical, structural and plumbing defects in his apartment buildings. Part of the settlement of the suit was that Taber remove himself from hands-on operation of the apartments in question.

In 1996, the Thurston County Department of Environmental Health fined Taber for long term failure to maintain the septic system at an apartment building he owns south of Tumwater.

## Painted Cow Get Taber Banned By Angus Association

Taber raises beef cattle, and has even managed to make showing cattle at county fairs controversial. In 1984, the American Angus Cattle Association disciplined Taber for literally painting crossbred cattle which were only part Black Angus to make them appear purebred. He was also cited for forcing extra water down the animals' throats just before showing them so that they would meet weight requirements. The Association eventually ousted Taber and barred him from their shows. Taber filed a lawsuit against the association which he dropped part way through the trial as the facts

worked against him. He has been barred from exhibiting in the Clark, Lewis, and Thurston County Fairs.


## The Merry Prankster

An uncontested fact about Ron Taber is that he was the head of the radical Students for a Democratic Society while at Washington State University. The 1998 Taber, a born again, conservative Christian, has left that world behind.

Like a little boy with a live frog, Taber has an interesting habit of thrusting a dried bull penis, used as the tip of a cane, toward visitors to his ranch who intended to shake his hand—not the male member of a cow. Such an amazing number of Republicans who had visited the ranch related this experience that *The Reporter* felt compelled to include it in this story.

Taber is best known in some quarters for a remark during his 1996 campaign for Superintendent of Public Instruction, when he said that "Spanish is the language of doormen, dishwashers, and fruit pickers." It is surprising that someone who spends so much time tilting at windmills does not seem to know that it is also the language of *Don Quixote* author Miguel Cervantes, not to mention Octavio Paz and Carlos Fuentes. But Ron Taber's Ph.D. from Washington State University was in American Studies.

The legitimate point, used with great success in California's recent passage of an initiative requiring English immersion training instead of long term bilingual education, is that command of the English language is the basis for success in America. The challenge Ron Taber will pose for the Republicans throughout the campaign is that he likes to use outrageous examples to make a point. Some apologists for Taber say that Reagan did the same thing, but Reagan had a great ability to connect with a broad range of people, a sense of good will toward others, and immense personal charm.

Though the decision to write this article was sparked by the offer of an interview with Ron Taber by one of his campaign workers, he did not make himself available, nor provide formal position statements despite direct requests from the *Tacoma Reporter*. 

Elect

**Ron  
Taber**

9th Congressional District  
Representative

We Need Your Help!

**PRO-FAMILY  
LIMITED GOVERNMENT  
STRONG DEFENSE**

Sponsored by Ron Taber for Congress Campaign  
Campaign HQ: 4210 36th Ave NE, Olympia WA 98516  
Voice (360) 456-8343 Toll Free (800) 494-6774 Fax (360) 456-8382  
E-mail [taberhq@tcnnet.com](mailto:taberhq@tcnnet.com)  
Home Page <http://tcn.nba.net/~taberhq/>

**ENDORSEMENT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**1. I Will:**

- A. ☐ Doorbell my Neighborhood
- B. ☐ Coordinate my city
- C. ☐ Volunteer at headquarters
- D. ☐ Telephone voters
- E. ☐ Display a yard sign

**\*2. Enclosed is:**

☐\$500    ☐\$250    ☐\$100    ☐\$50

☐\$25    ☐Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Ron Taber for Congress

**\*3. Federal law requires that we request the name, city and state of your employer and your occupation. You are not obligated to provide this information, but if you don't, we will have to waste valuable resources via repeated requests in order to satisfy the PRC.**

Your Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_